

City of Hyattsville

*Hyattsville Municipal Building
4310 Gallatin Street, 3rd Floor
Hyattsville, MD 20781
(301) 985-5000
www.hyattsville.org*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dGjluzrrT0WYRitW96n97Q

Virtual

City Council

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor
Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Emily Strab, Ward 2
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Daniel Peabody, Ward 4
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator

Laura Reams, City Clerk, 301-985-5009, cityclerk@hyattsville.org

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING!
Your participation at this public meeting is valued and appreciated.

AGENDA/PACKET: The Agenda/Packet is available for review at the Hyattsville Municipal Building and online at www.hyattsville.org prior to the scheduled meeting (generally available no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled Monday meeting). Please note, times given for agenda items are estimates only. Matters other than those indicated on the agenda may also be considered at Council discretion.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT: In compliance with the ADA, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or other services in conjunction with this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (301) 985-5009. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AUDIBLE DEVICES: Please ensure all audible devices are turned off or otherwise not audible when the City Council is in session. Thank you.

PUBLIC INPUT: If you wish to address the Council during the Public Comment period, please use the "Raise Hand" feature in the virtual meeting interface. Participants may also submit statements electronically using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

WAYS TO WATCH THE MEETING LIVE: City Council meetings are broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon). You may also view meetings live online at hyattsville-md.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera_id=2

REPLAY SCHEDULE: The meetings will be re-broadcast on cable television, channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon) daily at 7:00 a.m., 1 p.m., and 8 p.m. Meetings are also able for replay online at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

CITY INFORMATION: Sign up to receive text and email notifications about Hyattsville events, government, police and programs at www.hyattsville.org/list.aspx

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather, please call 301-985-5000 to confirm the status of the Council meeting.

Meeting Notice:

The Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023 remotely via video conference. The Council meeting will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The meeting will be broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast), channel 12 (Verizon), and available via live stream at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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Members of the public who wish to comment during the virtual Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dGjluzrrT0WYRitW96n97Q

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator-Consuela Barbour

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Services-Jay Joyner

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Holly Simmons

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Danny Schaible

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Ben Simasek

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Daniel Peabody

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Croslin held a moment of silence in honor of Mr. George Wilson Reaves, who was a longtime business owner of Brick Works Plus.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Simasek, seconded by Council Vice-President Schaible, that the Agenda be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

4. Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Mr. Marshall spoke in opposition to the proposed budget in part because it includes funding for the fire department, funding for The Spot, and that the budget includes a tax increase for property owners.

5. Community Notices and Meetings**5.a. Main City Calendar: May 16, 2023 - June 5, 2023**[HCC-389-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar May 15, 2023 - June 5, 2023](#)

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City-related news and events.

Councilmember Solomon and Councilmember Sandino asked about the results of the 2020 audit sent out by City Treasurer Brooks. City Treasurer Brooks said that the new fund balances are updated. Once 2021 and 2022 audits are complete there will be new fund balances brought to Council.

Councilmember Schaible asked for an update on the Rent Stabilization Study. Director Simmons responded that the study contract is under review and there should be an early July start date.

Councilmember Schaible asked if speed citation fees could be escalated based on amount over speed limit. Police Chief Towers responded that the State sets the fees.

Councilmember Strab asked City Treasurer Brooks for explanation on the changes to the fund balances and budget. Mr. Brooks responded that his earlier numbers were his own estimates and that final audit numbers are final. Treasurer Brooks continued that the City could not take on any more long term debt at this time. He noted that policies would be coming forward to set a cap on the reserve fund balance.

Councilmember Strab said given the 2020 audit uncovered a \$6M discrepancy and we are still two years behind on audits that it is a very hard place for the Council to budget from. She expressed serious concern about approving the budget as is.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about the status of the grant manager and when that position would be filled. City Administrator Douglas said the job description has not yet been drafted but she will update Council once the position is posted.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

7.a. WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign [HCC-379-FY23](#)

Presentation on the WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign program.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [BBNR City of Hyattsville](#)

Taylor Robey, Transportation Manager introduced Charlie Scott and William Jones from WMATA to present the Better Bus Network Plan. She noted that the item would come back for Council action on June 5.

Councilmember Waszczak asked for further information on specific bus routes. Mr. Jones responded that current services will remain in place; Rhode Island will be the general access point. He will share Council's requests with Prince George's County Department of Public Works.

Councilmember Solomon noted that there is no public transportation between the Hyattsville Metro stops and retail locations.

Councilmember Haba addressed the frequency of buses on busy routes, and expressed his preference for creating loops in routes.

7.b. 2023 Biennial Election - Presentation of Results [HCC-396-FY23](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

City Clerk Laura Reams provided a report on the May 9, 2023 election including the presentation of the certified results.

8. Proclamations

Both proclamations were adopted by a single vote.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Peabody, that the Proclamations be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

8.a. Proclamation Recognizing National Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week [HCC-387-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 14 through May 20, 2023 as National Police Week and May 15, 2023 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 05015 National Police Week and Peace Officers' Memorial Day 2023](#)

8.b. Proclamation of National Public Works Week[HCC-388-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing the week of May 21 through May 27, 2023, to be Public Works Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0515 National Public Works Week 2023](#)

9. Appointments**9.a. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee**[HCC-394-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Janet Nackoney (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire May 31, 2025.

Sponsors: Haba and Simasek

Attachments: [Janet Nackoney Re-appointment May 15 redac](#)

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

10. Consent Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature, and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Mayor/Council request specific items be removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

10.a. ARPA: Housing Manager position[HCC-378-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$135,000 over the course of 18 months to hire a Housing Manager who will manage the City's affordable housing policies and programs and implement the City's Housing Action Agenda.

Sponsors: Waszczak and Simasek

10.b. Zoning Variance Request: V-76-22 - 6117 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville [HCC-385-FY23](#)
(RECONSIDERATION 2)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Board of Zoning Appeals in support V-76-22 for the subject property at 6117 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville. The purpose of the zoning variance request is to validate existing conditions of side yard width and front yard depth and allow an excess in lot coverage to enable the approval of a building permit to allow for the construction of a one-story addition on an existing residential dwelling unit.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [V-76-22 Site Plan 05.08.23](#)
[V-76-22 BZA referral 04.18.23](#)
[V-76-22 Application](#)

10.c. Disbursement of Ward 3 Discretionary Funds [HCC-392-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of \$367.32 of Ward 3 FY23 discretionary funds to Councilmember Ben Simasek as reimbursement for the April 29, 2023 Ward 3 Check-In and Candidate Meet & Greet.

Sponsors: Simasek and McClellan

Attachments: [4-27-23 Receipt Cocineros](#)
[4-27-23 Receipt Mezeh](#)

10.d. Disbursement of Ward 2 Discretionary Funds [HCC-393-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of \$149.90 of Ward 2 FY23 discretionary funds to pay for the Zoom account for the free Hyattsville Community Yoga class.

Sponsors: Strab and Schaible

10.e. Acceptance of the Certified Results for the 2023 Biennial Election [HCC-395-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the certified election results from the Board of Supervisors of Elections for the 2023 Biennial Election held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. This certification is provided for under Section C4-11 of the Hyattsville City Charter.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Certified Return Sheet 2023](#)

11. Action Items (8:20 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

11.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2023-02: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget (Introduction)[HCC-386-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2023-02, an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, for the general purpose, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023; authorizing collection of taxes herein levied, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year (INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [University Town Center Special Tax Report \(2023\) 5-10-2023](#)
[Hyattsville Ordinance 2023-01 Fiscal Year 2024 Budget DRAFT 5-12-2023](#)

Councilmember Denes stated his concern with the City budget situation specifically with pulling down the reserve funds. He said he was concerned that the level of spending is unsustainable moving forward. He also asked for an explanation on how the expenditures and revenues balanced on the budget ordinance.

Treasurer Brooks provided a lengthy explanation. Councilmember Denes thanked Treasurer Brooks for the response but noted that his question was not answered. He provided more details on his question. Treasurer Brooks said that the Charter could not be ignored and that it requires a balanced budget be presented. Councilmember Denes again sought clarity on his question. Treasurer Brooks said he was bound by the Charter to present a balanced budget. Councilmember Denes asked about the approach of keeping two months of expenditures in the reserve fund and if that equated to the City spending \$7.5M a month. Treasurer Brooks said that it is recommended to have two months of revenues or expenditures in reserve. Councilmember Denes expressed that he does not see how the current numbers are adding up.

Council President Solomon tried to restate the question from Councilmember Denes. He referenced the budget ordinance and provided his interpretation on the math. Treasurer Brooks stated that the budget ordinance was not a coincidence and that per charter he had to present a balanced budget.

Councilmember Haba clarified that the budget expenditure was over but because the entire fund balance is not considered a revenue, just the amount needed to balance the budget was transferred and reflected on the budget ordinance. Councilmember Denes stated that the City cannot use capital funds for budgeting purposes, and that the total line items add up without considering the transfer from the general revenue fund.

Councilmember Denes said that he would make an appointment to meet with Treasurer Brooks to discuss the budget ordinance.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Strab, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Nay: Schaible, and Denes

11.b. Proclamation Recognizing the Results of the 2023 Hyattsville Youth Vote[HCC-390-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing the unsettled debate among the youth of Hyattsville regarding the correct categorization of hot dogs.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0515 Youth Vote 2023](#)

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

12. Council Dialogue (9:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**13. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Peabody, seconded by Councilmember McClellan, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino